



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 20 September 2023



OLS Introduction

The Office for Life Sciences (OLS) is a joint unit between the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) and Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT).

This bulletin aims to keep the life sciences sector up to date on the latest government announcements and wider opportunities in policy areas which may be of interest to the sector.

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News

NEW – Mental Health Research for Innovation Centre (M-RIC) website launched: visit [here!](#)

The website details the pioneering mental health research that is being undertaken in Liverpool which will have a direct impact on local NHS care and treatments. M-RIC is a partnership between Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Liverpool. Earlier this year, the organisations received £10.5 million from the National Institute for Health and Care Research and the Office for Life Sciences to create M-RIC as part of the UK Mental Health Mission. **Read more [here](#).**

NEW – UK patients set to have faster access to innovative medical technologies via new pathway – The Innovative Devices Access Pathway (IDAP) pilot was [launched yesterday](#). The new regulatory pathway will support the development and adoption of innovative medical technologies that meet an unmet clinical need and provide innovators and manufacturers with multi-partner support and targeted scientific advice. Industry are invited to submit Expressions of Interest by 29 October. To find out more about the pilot and how to apply **click [here](#)**.

NEW – High-risk, High-reward research receives a £2 million funding boost

Four projects exploring pioneering techniques that include the use of AI to tackle cancers with poor survival rates have each been granted £500,000 to drive forward their ambitious research. **Read more [here](#).**

NEW – Report reveals impact of COVID-19 research and innovation funding

Conducted by Technopolis, the report ‘Impact evaluation of UKRI’s research and innovation funding response to COVID-19’ unpicks how publicly funded research across the spectrum helped to shape government decision making, ease the impact of the pandemic and ultimately save lives. **Read more [here](#).**

NEW – First treatment for acute migraine to be recommended by NICE

NICE has published draft guidance recommending Rimegepant as a cost-effective option for the acute treatment of migraine in adults. **Read more [here](#).**

NEW – More people could be offered genetic testing for genes linked to ovarian cancer

New draft NICE guidelines for inherited ovarian cancer recommends that more people are tested for genes linked to ovarian cancer. The guideline aims to raise greater awareness and increase availability of genetic testing. **Read more [here](#).**

NEW – NHS delivering record number of tests and checks with more one-stop shops in the local community

Figures released last week show that NHS staff delivered more than 25 million checks in a year for patients, two million more compared to the same period before the pandemic. **Read more [here](#).**

NEW – Government to meet with health experts to prepare NHS for winter

The Health and Social Care Secretary will host a roundtable with the Prime Minister and clinical leaders to discuss ways to mitigate winter pressures, improve performance and drive forward planning to ease pressures on the NHS this winter. **Read more [here](#).**

NEW – First meeting of UK science champions to cement UK leadership in safe, responsible biology breakthroughs

Council of leaders from across industry and academia meets with the Science Minister for the first time, aimed at making the UK a world leader in responsible use of engineering biology. **Read more [here](#).**

NEW – MHRA approves Moderna’s adapted COVID-19 vaccine (Spikevax) that targets Omicron XBB.1.5

An adapted COVID-19 vaccine from Moderna (Spikevax) has been authorised by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency after it was found to meet the UK regulator’s standards of safety, quality and effectiveness. **Read more [here](#).**

NEW – £200 million to boost NHS resilience and care this winter

The government has invested £200 million to help support services through peak winter months. Alongside this, £40 million is being invested to bolster social care capacity and improve discharge from hospital. **Read more [here](#).**



Useful Links

- The [Office for Life Sciences](#) homepage provides updates and information on all things from the Life Sciences sector and ongoing government work.
- Information around Horizon Europe funding can be found [here](#).
- Guidance for businesses on Brexit can be found [here](#).
- Access the ‘Check How to Export Goods’ tool [here](#) for the information you need to export goods out of the UK market.

- If you're a UK business selling goods or services to Europe, you can contact the UK government [export support team](#) by phone or online.
- Access the 'Check How to Export Goods' tool [here](#) for the information you need to export goods out of the UK market.
- Click [here](#) for more information and advice on exporting.
- In England, [Growth Hubs](#) can advise on local and UK Government business support.
- Register for HMRC's free [Trader Support Service](#) if you are moving goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Click [here](#) to view the latest weekly Trader Support Service (TSS) bulletin.
- The most up-to-date guidance on the [Northern Ireland Protocol](#) is on GOV.UK, including information on moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland.
- If you need to get in touch with the MHRA, please email MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk or phone 0203 080 6000.